

Course number: VAS9521B/9621B

Course name *May You Live in Interesting Times: Pivotal Exhibitions and Artworks*

Day: Thursdays

Time: 14:30-17:30pm

Location: VAC 247

Instructor: Kelly Wood

Office: VAC 119

Email: kwood@uwo.ca

Telephone number: ext. 88248

Office Hours: Wednesday, 15:00-17:00

### Course Description:

May You Live in Interesting Times: Pivotal Exhibitions and Artworks that Changed Everything

production. Our objective will be to deeply comprehend how artworks relate to the "interesting times" in which they exist, and, from which they emerge. In other words, form and context. The class will investigate other important recent, and historical, exhibition world-wide—to identify pivotal themes and shifts in art discourse and curatorship that are still resonating today. The class will study the ideas and philosophies that have informed these movements in order to more thoroughly understand why certain artworks have become so prominent. See Power Point Presentation in Resources for more information . . . .

This course is open to both history and studio students. Rather than a focus on exhibition making and history, this course will try to explore how artworks may have produced exhibition shifts. The class will be open to, and critically examine, the work of a number of Canadian and International artists who have embodied, in their

form, the spirit of their times. Portions of this course will be structured around introductory seminars, presentations and lectures by the instructor. The students will then take up their own exhibition and art interests and investigate and present their research, and, or, case studies, to the class in a workshop environment. Innovative student directions are encouraged.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This is a graduate level class intended for students that would like to concentrate on the study of a particular art movement or theme of study. This course is intended to assist students in the development of analytical skills with which to enhance their understanding of contextual interpretation; and to, by extension, expand their own production methodologies.

**Methods:**

A high degree of discussion and participation in class activity will be encouraged. Students will participate in presentations, group discussions, and research projects.

### Reading responses

Four reading responses will be assigned through the OWL platform. Instructions will be available inline on OWL.

### Research Paper

A semiformal essay, based on your presentation, will be submitted at the end of this course. It will be submitted in PDF format through OWL. Instructions will be posted inline.

### Note:

An aim of this course is to expose the student to a very broad range of contemporary art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is nowadays called 'mature subject matter'. Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

### Evaluation:

Grades will be given according to class participation, attendance and upon the quality and level of proficiency and inquiry demonstrated in class and in self-directed assignments.

A student who cannot complete assignments totalling less than 10% for the whole course, due to



Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

**Mental Health:**

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

[http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

**Building Access (September 1st to April 30th):**

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

**Permission re: Promotion:**

You grant permission for Western University to reproduce your name, information describing your artwork, representations of your work and any other information you have provided for the purpose of display, promotion and publicity either now or in the future.

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including, without limitation, advertising, display, editorial, packaging, promotion, television, social media, the Department of Visual Arts website, flickr, Twitter, Instagram etc.). Students wishing to not have their work photographed should not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre.

You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

**Artwork Installation Liability Release:**

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University

accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. **If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.**

**Removal:**

